

Application No. 10/811,606
Amendment dated May 20, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A customizable cerumen guard for a hearing aid having a shell, a receiver, a receiver tube, and aperture in the shell communicating with the receiver tube, the customizable cerumen guard further comprising:
 - a hollow, cylindrical insert adapted to be inserted into the shell aperture, the insert including:
 - an inside surface of the insert defining a chamber adapted to directly receive a cerumen-trapping accessory,
 - an ear canal aperture adapted to communicate with the ear of a wearer, where the insert includes a surface surrounding the ear canal aperture defining a ridge, and
 - a receiver aperture adapted to communicate with the receiver tube; and
 - a plurality of customizable caps each having an inner-cap surface to engage the ridge of the insert to releasably attach one of the customizable caps with the insert and a central opening in communication with a number of peripheral openings, where the peripheral openings further include a cerumen-spreading device positioned in the peripheral openings.
2. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 1, wherein the insert is permanently mounted in the shell aperture.
3. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 2, wherein the insert is mounted in the shell aperture with adhesive.

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4. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 2, wherein the insert is screwed into the shell aperture.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 1, wherein the cerumen-trapping accessories are selected from the group consisting of a wax coil, a wax basket, and a wax filter.
7. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of customizable caps further comprises a cap having a mesh covering the ear canal aperture.
8. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 7, wherein the cap has a chamber therein and further comprising a cerumen-spreading device insertable into the chamber adjacent the mesh.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A customizable cerumen guard for a hearing aid having a shell, a receiver, a receiver tube, and aperture in the shell communicating with the receiver tube, the customizable cerumen guard further comprising:
 - a hollow, cylindrical insert adapted to be permanently mounted into the shell aperture with adhesive, the insert including:
 - an inside surface of the insert defining a chamber, where a wax coil is positioned in the chamber adapted to directly receive a cerumen-trapping accessory,

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an ear canal aperture adapted to communicate with the ear of a wearer, where the insert includes a surface surrounding the ear canal aperture defining a ridge, and
a receiver aperture adapted to communicate with the receiver tube;
and

a plurality of customizable caps each having an inner-cap surface to engage the ridge of the insert to releasably attach one of the customizable caps with the insert and a central opening in communication with a number of peripheral openings, where the peripheral openings further include a cerumen-spreading device positioned in the peripheral openings.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 10, wherein one of the plurality of customizable caps further comprises a cap having a mesh covering the ear canal aperture.

14. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 13, wherein the cap has a chamber therein and further comprising a cerumen-spreading device insertable into the chamber adjacent the mesh.

15. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 10, wherein one of the plurality of customizable caps further comprises a cap having a central opening and a plurality of peripheral openings.

16. (Currently Amended) A customizable cerumen guard for a hearing aid having a shell, a receiver, a receiver tube, and aperture in the shell communicating with the receiver tube, the customizable cerumen guard further comprising:

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a hollow, cylindrical insert adapted to be screwed into the shell aperture, the insert including:

an inside surface of the insert defining a chamber adapted to directly receive a cerumen-trapping accessory,

an ear canal aperture adapted to communicate with the ear of a wearer, where the insert includes a surface surrounding the ear canal aperture defining a ridge, and

a receiver aperture adapted to communicate with the receiver tube; and

a plurality of customizable caps each having an inner-cap surface to engage with the ridge of the insert to releasably attach one of the customizable caps with the insert and a central opening in communication with a number of peripheral openings, where the peripheral openings further include a cerumen-spreading device positioned in the peripheral openings.

17. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 16, wherein the cerumen-trapping accessories are selected from the group consisting of a wax coil, a wax basket, and a wax filter.

18. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 16, wherein one of the plurality of customizable caps further comprises a cap having a mesh covering the ear canal aperture.

19. (Original) The customizable cerumen guard of claim 18, wherein the cap has a chamber therein and further comprising a cerumen-spreading device insertable into the chamber adjacent the mesh.

20. (Canceled)